

CLAIMS

We Claim:

1. A surgical instrument <sup>assembly</sup> for treating female urinary stress incontinence comprising:

- a) a mesh for implanting into the lower abdomen of a female to provide support to the urethra;
- b) a first ~~curved needle element~~ <sup>curved needle guide</sup> defining in part a curved shaft having a distal end and a proximal end, the proximal end having means for attaching to the mesh;
- c) a ~~second curved needle element~~ <sup>curved needle guide</sup> having a proximal end and a distal end; and
- d) coupling means for simultaneous attachment to the distal end of the first needle and the distal end of the ~~second needle~~ <sup>guide</sup>.

2. A surgical instrument <sup>assembly</sup> for treating female urinary stress incontinence comprising:

- a) a mesh for implanting into the lower abdomen of a female to provide support to the urethra and comprising a first ~~coupling means at both ends of the mesh~~ <sup>coupling means</sup>; and
- b) a curved needle element defining in part a curved shaft having a distal end and a proximal end, the distal end having ~~a second coupling means~~ <sup>a needle</sup> for attaching to the first coupling means.

